



# Application for the use of Metal Detectors

Permit# \_\_\_\_\_

PARK NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Applicant Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First M.I.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address Apartment/Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State ZIP Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Drivers License # \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate # \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Year / Make / Model \_\_\_\_\_

## Conditions for Use of Metal Detector

1. The use of metal detectors is prohibited in any county park area without the signature of the Parks Director or his designee on this application.
2. This permit is good only at the above named county park and only until the date of expiration. However, the Parks Director or his designee may revoke this permit or terminate it early, with or without cause and with or without notice to the permit holder.
3. The use of metal detectors is permitted only in areas designated by the Parks Director or designee.
4. The probing and digging for items is limited to the use of an ice pick, screwdriver, or small knife. The use of larger digging tools is prohibited.
5. All turf, dirt, etc must be left in the original condition prior to digging. Permit holder should follow the advice on the attached How to Retrieve Detected Targets (page 3) and Popping (page 4), as long as that advice is not inconsistent with the provisions of these Conditions.
6. All personal articles found in the county parks must be turned over to the Parks Department. The term "personal articles" means things like watches, rings, credit cards, and wallets. The term does not include single coins.
7. All federal, state, and county laws must be obeyed, including federal and state antiquity laws.
8. Use of metal detectors may be restricted by the Parks Director or designee in historical and archaeologically sensitive areas.
9. The cutting of vegetation and driving of motor vehicles to the digging site is prohibited.
10. Headphones or similar equipment is encouraged.
11. The permit holder should follow the "Code of Ethics" for Metal Detecting (Page 2).
12. By signing this application, the permit holder agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Douglas County and its officers, employees, and agents, including the Parks Department and Parks Advisory Board, from any and all liability, damage, and injury of any kind that may arise from or is in any way related to the permit holder's activities, acts, and omissions, including the activities, acts, and omissions, of permit holder's family, guests, or others who may accompany permit holder.

## Permit Approval

I certify that I understand the terms of this application. \_\_\_\_\_

Parks Authorized Agent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Code of Ethics for Metal Detecting

Be a good ambassador for other detectorists by following this code of ethics for respecting nature, history, and property owners.

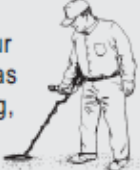



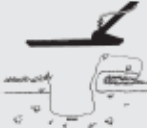




1. I will respect private property and will not metal detect without the property owner's permission.
2. I will not destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
3. I will never litter, always pack out what I take in, and remove all trash found.
4. I will leave all gates and other accesses to land as found.
5. I will not damage natural resources, wildlife habitats, or any private property.
6. I will use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
7. I will abide by all laws, ordinances, or regulations that may govern my search or the area I will be in.
8. I will fill all holes, regardless of how remote the location, and never dig in a way that will damage, be damaging to, or kill any vegetation.
9. I will report the discovery of items of significant historical value to a local historian or museum in accordance with the latest legislation.
10. I will be an ambassador for the metal detecting hobby.

Be polite and informative to those who inquire about your hobby — you are the ambassador of a pastime we want to preserve and other detectorists will be judged by how you act and respond.

## How to Retrieve Detected Targets

The following “Hinged Door Method” of digging is widely recommended to minimize damage to lawns. Careful recovery in multiple-use well-groomed areas is the responsibility of all metal detector users.

### Hinged Door Method

<p><b>#1.</b> After locating a good target (metal), pinpoint the center. If your instrument has depth reading, take note of the depth. Practice on surface metals with the loop held several inches above target.</p> 	<p><b>#2.</b> Using a sturdy digging tool, preferably a trowel or knife, cut a horseshoe-shaped size plug around the pinpointed target. Leave an uncut hinge area to keep the grass in place.</p> 	<p><b>#3.</b> Cut through the turf, being careful to cut around the target and not damage it.</p> 
<p><b>#4.</b> Use your digging tool to pry the turf flap up and hinge it over. Your pinpointed target now rests down-side up.</p> 	<p><b>#5.</b> Check for the target visually, and with your detector, to see if the target is in the flap or remains in the hole.</p> 	<p><b>#6.</b> A pinpointing probe can be used to speed the process of finding the target in the flap or in the hole.</p> 
<p><b>#7.</b> If additional dirt needs to be removed from the hole, place it on a drop cloth.</p> 	<p><b>#8.</b> After recovering the target, the dirt can then easily be replaced with a minimum of spreading.</p> 	<p><b>#9.</b> Replace the turf flap and step on it firmly. Once completed very little indication of digging should be seen.</p> 

**It is very important for the future of metal detecting that you use care in digging - - -**

# Popping

Metal detectorists who started detecting before the advent of electronic probe/pinpointers are generally well experienced in the art of probing and “popping” shallow coins. Early detectors generally did not get much depth, so popping techniques were adequate for almost all target retrievals. Modern detectors have greater depth capabilities, so the plugging method has become necessary and more popular. For quickly retrieving coins from just under the surface to about 2” deep, with practice, the popping method is the fastest and least invasive.

There are probes made of brass specifically for metal detecting. Brass is softer and less likely to scratch or damage a coin. With that caveat, I have always used a cheap, \$1.00 variety 8” regular-tipped screwdriver from the hardware store. You can round off the blade or just the sharp points with a file, grinder or Dremel tool if you like. Another advantage of the screwdriver is that if I lose one in the field, it’s so cheap, I’ll just get another rather than wasting much time searching for it.

The probing technique takes some practice, but once you’ve learned it, you can easily tell the difference between a metal object and a rock, tree root or even aluminum can scraps just by the feel of the probe. I describe coins as having a “tap-tap-tap” sound that other stuff in the ground just doesn’t have. Obviously probing will not work well in especially rocky or gravelly areas.

## Probing & Popping

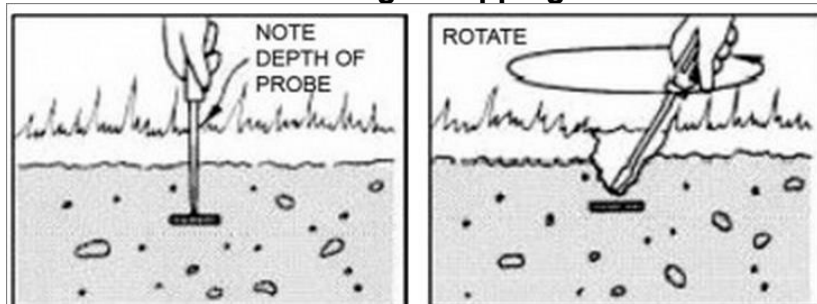


Figure 1

Figure 2

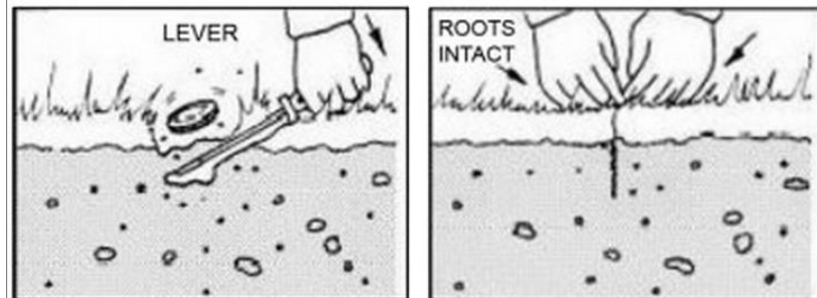


Figure 3

Figure 4